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THE FUTURE OF CIVILIAN COMPENSATION

HOW WAR IN UKRAINE AND A NEW "BILL OF RIGHTS" MAY AFFECT THE FUTURE OF REDRESS FOR CIVILIANS



A young woman takes mobile phone pictures of destroyed Retroville shopping centre after a Russian attack in which at least six people were killed, Kyiv, Ukraine, 29 March 2022. © Mykhaylo Palinchak/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images

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REPARATIONS FOR UKRAINE? AN INTERNATIONAL ROUTE MAP

Ceasefire's newest report considers the international legal authority grounding Ukrainian reparations and weighs which form payments should take. It then maps out the mechanisms that could be entrusted to take on the task of awarding and administering reparations

In line with past reports on civilian compensation, Ceasefire has proposed an outline for an international reparations scheme for civilians who have suffered damages inflicted since Russia's invasion. The plan addresses essential aspects of civilian reparation schemes such as administration mechanisms, sources of compensation awarded to civilians, and international authority underlying such a structure. Last month, the report's contents were picked up by *The Guardian* where Diplomatic Editor Patrick Wintour addressed the research and reasoning.

To avoid further delay in the implementation of an effective reparation scheme, Ceasefire's director Mark Lattimer argues that international organizations and the Ukraine government should begin structuring reparation systems as soon as possible to optimize civilian recovery and rebuilding efforts in Ukraine.

Plan needed to make Russia pay reparations to Ukrainians, says report

International courts not in a position to award compensation and UN would have no enforcement power, says UK thinktank

Patrick Wintour, *The Guardian*.

Furthermore, given the scope and scale of reparations required by the conflict of Ukraine, the report supports the creation of a non-judicial mechanism to administer payments to civilians who have suffered harm. The fundamental question, however, remains in the



issue of how the international community will ensure that the Russian Federation agrees to pay for substantial reparations, possibly including under a peace agreement. Experience has shown that to encourage compliance and to support international law, it is often preferable for reparations schemes to be founded on state consent. To achieve this, some groups have suggested leveraging the seizure of frozen Russian assets to pay for an international reparations scheme. However, Ceasefire's report also suggests other routes, including making the lifting of current financial sanctions contingent on Russian payments to Ukrainian civilians.

In this way, Ceasefire believes the international community can exert financial pressure on Russia in order to advance the cause of justice for all civilians harmed in the conflict. To read more, click below to access the full report.

[FULL REPORT](#)

A NEW BILL OF RIGHTS

How Clause 14 transforms military accountability and civilian compensation

Following the first reading of the UK government's Bill of Rights, Advocacy Officer Lydia Day has been lobbying against Clause 14, which introduces a total ban on access to justice with regards to human rights breaches in overseas military and peacekeeping operations. Here we answer common questions about the legislation and its effects on military accountability and civilian compensation.

What is the Human Rights Act?

The Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) incorporated rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into domestic British law, allowing individuals to defend their rights in UK courts in addition to international courts.

What does replacing this law with the Bill of Rights do?

Essentially, it removes a layer of protection that all people have against public interference by the UK government with any of the rights outlined by the ECHR. Human rights advocates have dubbed it the 'Rights Removal Bill'.

Why is Ceasefire focusing on Clause 14?

Ceasefire is a charity whose work focuses on supporting civilian rights in conflict zones and seeking legal redress when these rights are violated. Clause 14 introduces a total ban on access to justice with regards to human rights breaches in overseas military and peacekeeping operations. This would have a significant impact on the ability of civilians harmed in military operations to seek justice for allegations of wrongdoing before UK courts.



ACROSS THE FINISH LINE

Runners reflect on Hackney Half Marathon

Despite the hot May weather, twelve runners crossed the Hackney Half Marathon finish line, running a cumulative 157.2 miles while raising over £2,500. Their participation helped Ceasefire raise much needed funds for our programmes on the ground to support civilians caught up in war and conflict. After the race we were lucky to catch up with Elif who shared her experience of completing the half marathon with us:

CEASEFIRE: Hi Elif, so great to chat with you today. Can you tell us a bit about your experience running the Hackney Half last month?

ELIF: It wasn't my first half marathon, so I knew what I was in for, but I really didn't expect the heat to be so strong so early on in the day. It was definitely not my fastest, but I'm glad I got through it and managed to raise funds for a charity that works on a diverse set of projects across the Middle East and North Africa.

CEASEFIRE: Why did you choose to run for Ceasefire?

ELIF: I first came across Ceasefire on my university running club page. Given I was raised by immigrant middle eastern parents and had worked with Syrian refugees, I noticed that Ceasefire worked closely with regions I was familiar with. However, I think what mainly inspired me was Ceasefire's work towards making real systematic changes through the use of new technologies to promote civilian-led monitoring.

